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APPLICATION OF

UNITED CITIES GAS COMPANY
(a Division of Atmos Energy)

CASE NO. PUE000171

For General Increase in Rates

HEARING EXAMINER'S RULING

January 26, 2001

Pursuant to the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing dated August 9, 2000, a procedural schedule and hearing date of February 20, 2001, were established in the captioned proceeding. By motion filed on January 24, 2001, the Commission Staff requests an extension of the procedural schedule. In support of the motion, Staff states that it requires more time to complete its testimony and exhibits. Staff notes that the change in the procedural schedule should not prejudice the Company's customers since the proposed rates currently in effect are subject to refund with interest. Staff further states that United Cities Gas Company (the "Company") agrees to the revised procedural schedule proposed by Staff. No protests have been filed.

Good cause having been shown, I find the Staff's Motion for Extension of Procedural Schedule should be granted. Accordingly,

IT IS DIRECTED:

(1) That the public hearing currently scheduled to commence at 10:00 a.m. on February 20, 2001, shall be convened as scheduled for the sole purpose of receiving statements from public witnesses;

(2) That the evidentiary hearing is continued to 10:00 a.m. on March 5, 2001;

(3) That the filing deadline for Staff testimony and exhibits is extended from January 26, 2001, to February 9, 2001; and

(4) That the filing deadline for Company rebuttal testimony and exhibits is extended from February 9, 2001, to February 23, 2001.

Howard P. Anderson, Jr.
Hearing Examiner